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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/992,208	11/14/2001	Ron Crane	10015250-1	5292

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EXAMINER

KANG, ROBERT N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/992,208	CRANE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	<i>PNK</i>
	Robert N. Kang	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 November 2005.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,3-10,13,14,18 and 19 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,3-10,13,14,18 and 19 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 04 November 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant asserts that Yacoub is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claims 1 and 10, since it does not claim a "master printer," print server, and servant printer in the configuration disclosed. However, claim 1 has been amended simply to encompass the material of the original claim 2; likewise, claim 11 has been amended simply to contain the material of the original claim 12. Because all four of these claims are anticipated by Yacoub, it stands to reason the amended claims 1 and 11 are anticipated by Yacoub as well. Furthermore, the addition of a "print server" in limitation 2 of both claims is anticipated as well, and is further detailed in the rejection under 35 USC 102 below.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because as stated, the drawings depict network topologies which do not exist or are not described in the specification. Examiner understands, "no intention was made to attempt to depict particular types of connections and/or protocols." While the Examiner greatly appreciates the arrows added to end of each line to indicate unidirectional transmission, an even more bizarre communications method in the industry, these arrows, while impressive, do not overcome the objection. Specifically, in Fig. 1, the line which goes from 12B to 14 should instead go to 18, since as the examiner is aware, there is no printer which allows for multiple connections from computers/servers. Likewise in amended Fig. 3, the line from 12B to 35 should go to server 18. Even "high level schematic diagrams indicating communication relationships

between various components" should be consistent, since computer 12A utilizes server 18 to connect to various printers, computer 12B should likewise do the same, since to the Examiner's best knowledge, no printer exists which supports multiple connections as depicted.

3. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 3-10, 13, 14, 18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yacoub (US-PAT 6,452,692).

Regarding independent claims 1 and 10, limitation 1, Yacoub discloses a print server 460 attached to clients 420, 422, 424, and 426 through network 450, capable of distributing print jobs to the plurality of printers as shown in fig 2 step 250. Attached to network 450 are printers 410, 412, 414, and 416. Network 450, as stated in column 12, lines 9-12, “may be a LAN, WAN, wireless network or the network of networks referred to as the Internet.” Yacoub describes in his statement of the prior art in column 1, lines 43-46 that “with a traditional print server in the network, the user at each client station must select the printer that they wish to use, or they can be assigned a default printer during setup of the client station.” As stated in the application disclosure on page 8, paragraph 3, “the master printer system 59 can be implemented in software, hardware, or a combination thereof.” Since the master printer is not explicitly stated as a single enclosure, broadly defined, Yacoub’s print server and default printer, utilizing a wireless network, functions as a “master printer.” The server 680 contains a master printing mechanism defined as the default printer for the network, one of the printers 410-416, which is “capable of printing information corresponding to the print task.” The server 680 also contains a network interface card 620, which, when operating on a suitable wireless network such as the IEEE 802.11 standard, functions to “wirelessly transmit information corresponding to the print task.” Additionally, the printer server 680 is

"configured to determine an intended destination of the print task" by pulling the print data from the virtual printer 610 emulated by software in each client station 600. While Yacoub does not explicitly state that the print server "configures the information corresponding to the print task for wireless transmission," it can be safely assumed that the network interface card 620 is properly configured for packet encapsulation or forming on the transmission media for which it is designed. In short, Yacoub's system, utilizing a wireless transmission standard, has inherent functionality by utilizing a properly designed NIC. Thus Yacoub's patent meets the requirements of amended limitation 1, requiring, "a master printer including a master printing mechanism capable of printing information corresponding to the print task and to configure the information corresponding to the print task for wireless transmission."

Regarding limitation 2, "a print server operative to communicate the print tasks to the master printer," Yacoub discloses in FIG. 2, in step S200 a user sends a print job to a virtual printer in S210, which then is forwarded to the "master printer" as defined above. The user "communicate[s] print tasks to the master printer," and thus, meets the requirements of a "print server."

With regards to limitation 3, the "servant printers" fall under the widely acknowledged computing term "slave device." As defined by hp's own internal documentation, "a slave device does not have its own device controller, but instead is controlled through a master device." Thus, broadly defined, any printer in Yacoub's system connected to network 450 and not the default printer is considered a slave printer. Each printer is capable of printing a job assigned by the print server 680 and

thus it is assumed that each slave printer “includes a printing mechanism.” Additionally, since each slave printer is connected to the aforementioned wireless network 650, each slave printer necessarily includes a “wireless network module.” The final stipulations of claims 2 and 10, “the printing mechanism being adapted to print the information corresponding to the print task, the servant wireless network module being adapted to communicatively couple with the master wireless network module and receive the information corresponding to a wirelessly transmitted print task, and wherein the master printer is adapted to wirelessly transmit the information corresponding to the print task to each servant printer,” are requirements for functionality of the system as a whole and carried out by the NIC in each printer. Because the disclosure does not specify any of the “configuration” or “adaptation” procedures, examiner asserts that a properly functioning wireless networked print server and associated slave printers as recited by Yacoub intrinsically possesses these characteristics to ensure functionality.

In regards to claims 3-9 and 13, 14, 18, and 19, because Yacoub anticipates the features added to claims independent claims 1 and 10, upon which the aforementioned claims depend, the original rejection of said claims under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) still stands.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert N. Kang whose telephone number is (571) 272-0593. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

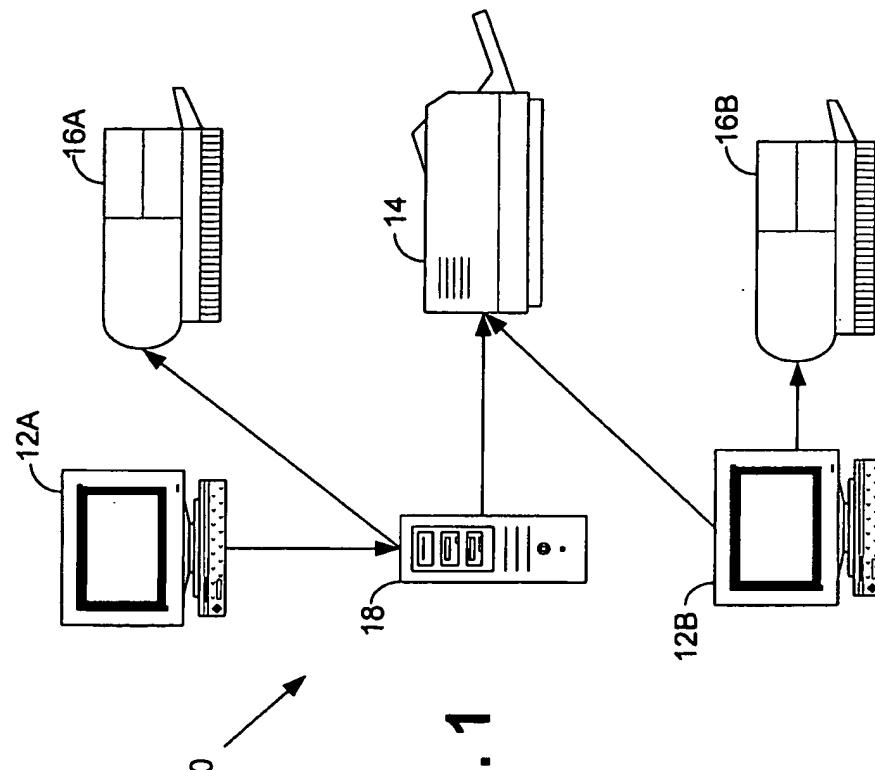
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (571)272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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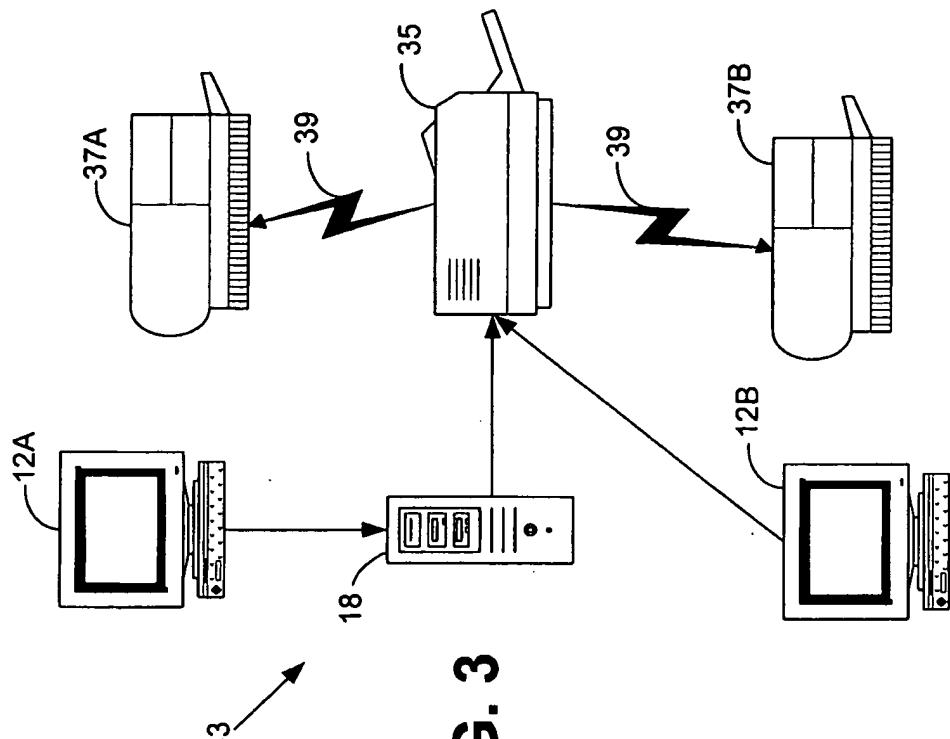


FIG. 3